

three others was deputed to inspect and report upon the character of the lake shore district from St. Thomas to Amherstburg. We started out with the expectation that we would be able to complete the task in two or three days, and we had vehicles to take us along, but we found so much to interest us that our time was consumed before we reached Chatham. We found so many evidences of the advantages of the district for the growth not only of apples, pears and plums, but also of peaches, that the committee were quite astonished and reported most favorably of the district, hoping the next year to take up the remainder of the district, including this, your favorite county. I believe, however, that this was not done, and the work has never been completed. I make the suggestion, and think it would not be a bad idea, for the Association to send a deputation up here, to report upon the advantages possessed by this district for the growth of the finer fruits. I am sure they can be produced here in great abundance. In connection with my duties as director of the Experimental Farm, it is my business to travel from Halifax to Vancouver, and I try to find out all I can about that little stretch of country—only about four thousand miles! But it takes some time to get over it and get acquainted with it and the differences of climate, soil and other characteristics connected with it. I have seen and examined the most favored districts of British Columbia, and some of them are certainly very promising for fruit growing; but I am free to say that I am not acquainted with any part of the Dominion in which fruit-growing can be carried on with greater promise of success than in the county of Essex. The display we have upon the table before us, most of which, I understand, comes from this vicinity, and has been produced here, should be sufficient to satisfy anyone that it is indeed a great fruit district which can grow such apples as these, keeping until this time in such condition as we see them. I would advise you, one and all, to cultivate more fruit; and I may say here that I believe in the aesthetic aspect of the question which has been advanced by my friend Mr. Garfield. You will seldom find a man actively and enthusiastically engaged in any department of horticulture who is a bad man. I suppose I ought to say something to you about the present and future of experimental farm work, as it bears upon fruit culture in Canada. In the organization of the work of the Experimental Farm, as the name implies, all departments of agriculture are expected to be covered; everything, in fact, with which a farmer is concerned—corn growing, stock raising and all the other important features of farm work. Such experimental work, taken up from time to time, will be most beneficial to the provinces in which these farms are situated. That is all I propose saying about the farm work generally. But in the department of horticulture I must say a few words more, as there are many very important aspects of this work to be considered, when we take into account the population of the Dominion and its needs. I firmly believe that it is the best policy and the only practical solution of some existing difficulties, that in districts like this, which are very favorably situated for fruit growing, it should be gone into on a large scale. I am equally as strong in my belief of the importance of having fruit at every man's door if it is possible to have it, in every part of this Dominion, but while there are few sections of the country where small fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries and currants cannot be grown, there are very many indeed where a beautiful apple, pear, plum, or peach, such as you can grow in Essex, cannot be grown at all; where the trees will not endure the severity of the climate. Either the cold of winter or the drouth of summer is sure to destroy them. The work of the Experimental Farm is to introduce from other countries having similar climates, and to originate in our own country varieties specially adapted to those districts not so favorably situated as yours is, so that we may eventually be able to produce apples, pears and plums which will prove hardy even in the most rigorous climates. We have in the Dominion to furnish to the settler the varieties he can grow to advantage, and if they are not up to the first quality, I know they will appreciate in the districts I have spoken of even second and third class, if they can grow them. In connection with the Experimental Farm work, a farm has been selected in Nova Scotia, at a village called Napan, where, though there are good facilities for fruit growing, the people have not paid much attention to it; partly, as they will tell you if you ask them, that they can buy apples grown in the famous Annapolis Valley cheaper than they can grow them. They are beginning, however, to realise that

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